



Reverse of 1881 Carson City silver dollar

Coins

Value adds up to more than a matter of dates

By Roger Boye

MORE questions from readers on coins and collecting:

● Q.—I have quite a few coins I'd like to sell [a list is attached] and would like to know what they are worth. I'm trying to live on a limited income, so every little bit helps.—M. S., Round Lake

A.—You don't supply enough information about your coins. You merely list dates, such as an 1881 silver dollar. Do your coins have mint marks? What condition are they in?

For example, an uncirculated 1881 silver dollar with a "CC" [for Carson City, Nev.] mint mark sells for about \$75, seven times as much as an uncirculated 1881 without a mint mark [coin minted in Philadelphia].

On the reverse of an 1881 silver dollar minted in Carson City, the CC mint mark is found at the center of the coin below the eagle and just above the words "One Dollar."

In short, you should purchase a coin book or periodical for help in identifying coins, locating mint marks, and determining conditions.

● Q.—I am probably what you would term a hoarder of old coins. One of my most unusual coins is an old half-dollar my grandfather gave to me. It is dated 1822 and 1922, and shows Ulysses

S. Grant. The reverse has a picture of a cabin set back among trees. It's in beautiful condition, too. What is it, and what is it worth? — C. K., McHenry

A.—Your coin is a commemorative half-dollar struck in 1922 on the 100th anniversary of Grant's birth. In uncirculated condition, the coin sells for about \$60. However, if the coin has a small star on the obverse above the letter "N" in Grant, its value is increased about tenfold.

Incidentally, you should examine your hoard with the aid of reference books. Chances are, several of the coins you are saving are common dates and would do more good in the bank earning interest.

● Q.—How does an ordinary person obtain uncirculated rolls of cents, outside of buying them from dealers?—J. H., Chicago

A.—Many collectors are successful in obtaining a roll of current date uncirculated cents from a friendly teller at a local bank. If you want a roll of uncirculated cents dated 1973 or earlier, you will probably have to buy it from a collector or dealer. Chances of a bank still having rolls of uncirculated 1973 cents are slim.

By the way, several Chicago area collectors have found 1975 dated cents in circulation. The earliest find reported to me occurred Jan. 27.